

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 13-19, 21, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lloyd, U.S. Pat. No. 6,379,414). Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10, and 12-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riach, U.S. Pat. No. 5,177,823.

Neither Riach nor Lloyd disclose friction retention means and, further, neither teach friction retention means that allow the arms to retain the position they were in when locked together after the arms are unlocked. This feature is an advantage over prior art, as it provides extra safety for the person adjusting the headrest. When the linkage arrangements in the prior art, including those of Lloyd and Riach, are released, gravity acts upon an upper arm and allows it to swing freely downward. As noted in the background of the invention of the present application, this is a safety hazard found in the prior art, as such movements may easily pinch the user's fingers. The friction retention means of the present invention prevent the upper arm section from swinging downwardly, thereby reducing hand and finger injury of the user. Furthermore, such an arrangement also eases adjustment of the arm sections for repositioning for a patient, in that less effort is needed to move the disengaged sections from one position to another. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to clarify that the friction retention means allow the arms to retain the position of the interlocking relationship while in said disengaged position. Accordingly, the feature of the friction retention means as presently claimed, patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art and allowance of independent claims 1 and 16 is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 2-3, 6-8, 10, 12-15 and 17-22, which depend from claims 1 and 16, is also requested.

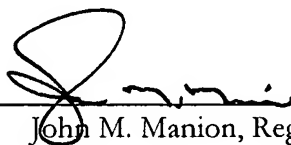
Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 were objected to as being based upon a rejected claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 4, 5, 11, and 12, depend from claim 1, which is now believed to be in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant has kept claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 in dependent form. Allowance of claims 4, 5, 11, and 12 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant notes the other prior art made of record. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to patentably distinguish the present invention from the prior art and further clarify what the Applicant considers as the subject matter of the present invention. No new matter has been added in this amendment. Accordingly, Applicant requests allowance of amended claims 1 and 16, and original claims 2-15, and 17-22, inclusive.

Respectfully Submitted,

By 
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28 February 2006
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Brewer/18497/660228 Am1. A

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